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MINUTES

OF THE

THREE FORK ASSOCIATION

ORGANIZED IN ASHE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, NOVEMBER 5th, 1841

THIS ASSOCIATION was organized with about 470 members.

Isaiah Wilcoxson, Brazilla McBride. Jacob Faw. Jacob Green & Reuben Farthing. Ordained Ministers.

David Cook Absolom Faw Richard Gentrey Licenciates

The Baptist Churches of Christ at Bear Creek, Beaver Creek, Cove Creek, Ebenezer, Oldfields, Pine Grove, Roans Creek, South Fork, Three Forks of the North Fork, Three Forks of the South Fork, having been dismissed from the Mountain District Association at her anual meeting in September 1841, met by their respective delegates in conference at the Three Forks of the South Fork November the 5th day A. D. 1841 as follows

Church	Delegate	No.	Contribution
Bear Creek	John Miller Rudolph Faw	51	$ -50
Beaver Creek	Jonathan Faw Lewis Walters Caleb Campbell	53	1.00
Cove Creek	B. MBride D. Farthing Hiram Wilson	50	1.00
Ebenezer	Jacob Green Lemuel Wilson I. Bumgarner	21	.52½
Oldfields	Adam Elrod R. Gentrey Isaac Greer	57	1.00
Pine Grove	I A Farthing W. B. Farthing Wm Hayes	10	-21½
Roans Creek	Jesse Farmer		1.00
South Fork	Isaiah Wilcoxson	60	.75

Church	Delegate	No.	Contribution
Three Forks N.F.	David Cook Wm Shearer Henry Cook	40	75
Three Forks S.F.	Robt Shearer John Cook Daniel Green	108	1.25

The meeing was organized by appointing Elder Isaiah Wilcoxson Moderator and Richard Gentrey Clerk.

Invited Elders Jordan Ashley and William Brown from the Lewis' Fork Association to take seats with us and aid us in Councill - who accepted the invitation. Appointed Elder Brazilla MBride and brethren Jonathan Faw & Dudley Farthing with the Moderator and Clerk to arrange the business of the meeting for the morrow. Prayer by Elder Jordan Ashley, and adjourned to 10 o'clock tomorrow.

Saturday Novm. 6th 1841

Met according to adjournment prayer by the Moderator, and proceeded to business. The Committee of arrangement expressed the following abstracts of principals (principles)

1st. We beleive in one only true and Loving God. Father Son and Holy Gost, and that these three are one.

2. We beleive that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the word of God and the only rule of Faith and Practice.

3. We beleive in the Doctrine of Election by Grace.

4th. We beleive in the Doctrine of Original Sin and in man's impotency to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by his own free will ability.

5th. We beleive sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.

6th. We beleive that sinners are called consecreted, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Spirit, and that all who are thus regen-

erated or born again by the Spirit of God shall never fall finally away.

7th. We beleive that Baptism and the Lords Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ and that true beleivers are the subjects of those ordinances. And we beleive the only true mode of Baptism is by immersion (Pencil: See Minutes for 1884)

8th We beleive in the resurection of the Dead. And a General Judgement; and that the joys of the Righteous and the Torments of the wicked will be Eternal.

9 We beleive that no minister has a right to administer the ordinances: Except such as are regularly called and come under the imposition of hands by the Presbytery

Which were agreed to and adopted

(Penciled) CONSTITUTION

Next took up the Constitution as follows.

1st The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union and duly sent to represent them in the Association who on producing letters from their respective churches certifying their appointment shall be entitled to their seats. Each church shall be entitled to three delegates. (Penciled Note: The Ministers members ex officio See Minutes for 1885)

2 In the letters from the different churches is to be expressed their number in full fellowship. Those baptised received by letter. dismissed by letter Excommunicated and dead since the last Association

3 The members thus chosen and convened shall have no power to Lord it over God's Heritage. Nor shall they have any _____ power over the churches. They shall not infringe any internal right of any church in the union.

4 The Association shall have a Moderator & Clerk who shall be chosen anually by the suffrage of the members present

5 New churches (or any regular Baptist church of Christ being legally dismissed by letter from any sister Association) upon application by letter & delegates shall be admitted into our union

6 Every church in the union shall be entitled to representation in the Association

7 Every querry presented by any member in the Association shall be once read. And before it is debated the Moderator shall put it to vote and if there shall be a majority for its being debated it shall be taken into consideration and be debated. but if there shall be a majority against it It shall be withdrawn.

8 Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association Except it be withxrawn by the member who made it.

9 The Association shall endeavor to furnish the churches with the minutes of their proceedings. The best method for accomplishing this purpose shall be at the direction of the futur associations

10 We think it absolutely necessary that we should have an Association fund for defraying the expense of the same. For the raising and supporting of which we think it to be the duty of each church in the union to contribute anually such sums as they shall think proper and send it by their delegates to the Association. And those moneys thus received shall be deposited in the hands of a Treasurer appointed by the Association who shall be accountable for the same. And paid out by him as the Association may from time to time direct.

11 There shall be an Association book kept wherein the proceedings of the Association shall be regularly recorded by a Secretary appointed

by the Association. who shall receive a compensation for his services.

12 The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected (if need be) and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association rises.

13 Amendments to this plan or form of government may be made at any time by a majority of the Association when they deem it necessary. By giving the churches Twelve Months notice

14 The Association shall have power

" To provide for the general union of the churches

" To endeavor to preserve a chain of communion amongst the churches

" To give the churches the necessary advice in matters of difficulty

" To enquire into the cause why the churches fail

" To represent themselves at any time in the Association

" To appropriate those moneys by the churches contributed for an Association fund to any purpose they may think proper

" Shall have power to withdraw from any church in their Union who shall violate the rules of this Association or deviate from the orthodox principals of religion

" To correspond with the Associations

" To invite any of the Baptist brethren in the ministry. to a seat in the Association. who may be present at the time of their setting

" To adjourn the Association to any futer time & place they may think proper and most convenient to the churches in the union

Which was agreed to and adopted

Next took up the Rules of Decorum as follows. Rules of Decorum (penciled)

1 The Association shall be opened and closed by prayr.

2. Only one person shall speak at a time who shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator. The person thus speaking shall not

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be interrupted in his speach by any except the Moderator till he is done speaking.

3 He shall strictly adhere to the subject and in no wise reflect on the person who spoke before him so as to make remark on his slips failings or imperfections. but shall fairly state the matter as he can, so as to give his views or ideas.

4 No person shall abruptly break off or absent himself from the Association without liberty obtained from it

5 No person shall rise & speak more than three times to any one subject without liberty from the Association

6 No member shall have liberty of laughing during the setting of the same or whispering in the time of public speaking

7 No member shall address another in any other appelation but that of brother

8 The Moderator shall not interrupt any member in or prohibit him from speaking till he gives his light on the subject. Except he break the rules of this decorum

9 The names of the several members of the Association shall be enrolled by the Clerk and called over as often as required by the Association

10. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same priviledge of speech as any other member. provided the chair be filled. He shall not vote unless the Association be equally divided. finis (penciled)

Which was also agreed to and adopted

Appointed Dudley Farthing Jonathan Faw and John Cook a committee of finance who reported that they had received $7.91-3/4 in contributions from the churches

Appointed Richard Gentrey to prepare a business letter and to

have it ready at the next Association and that he choose his subject

Appointed the Clerk to superintend the printing and that he have 300 copies of the proceedings of this meeting struck.

Appointed our next Association at Beaver Creek Ashe County to commence on Frixay before the 4th Lords Day in August next. Elder B. MBride to preach the introductory sermon Elder Isaiah Wilcoxson his alternate

Appointed a union meeting at, Pine Grove to commence on Friday before the second Lords Day in April next Elders Isaiah Wilcoxson & B MBride and Brethren Richard Gentrey & David Cook to attend. Also one at the Three Forks of the North Fork to commence on Friday before the third Lords day in May next Isaiah Wilcoxson Brazilla MBride & Richard Gentrey to attend.

Appointed R Gentrey Treasurer

Appointed Jacob Greer R. Gentrey & Jordan Ashley to occupy the stand on the Lords Day Prayr by Elder Jacob Green and adjourned to the next anual meeting

Isaiah Wilcoxson

Moderator

R Gentrey

Clerk